



Red Arrow Brigade
FAMILY UPDATE
March 30, 2009

Here's our fourth update from Fort Bliss. Most of the Red Arrow Soldiers are at the halfway point in their training. We're all eager to get our boots on the ground to apply our training.

We wrote about our housing last week. This week we'll cover our dining facilities. The dining facility at Camp McGregor where most troops are living is open for breakfast,



lunch and dinner. Over 2,300 Soldiers sign a roster and go through the chow line. There are different menu items such as eggs and bacon, ham or sausage for breakfast... burgers, fries, and pasta for lunch... lasagna, breaded veal or fish (or the ever-present cheeseburger) and salads for dinner. While some Soldiers may think the menus lack variety, there are always three or four choices available. Soldiers who choose not to eat at the chow hall have the option

of buying food from the Post Exchange Troop Store or eating at vendors located near the Morale Welfare and Recreation Center: Mo'z BBQ, Fuddruckers, Blimplie's or Anthony's Pizza.

At Westbrook, the other camp where our troops live, the dining facility is in a large area maintenance shelter (called LAMS). The menu is similar to McGregor's chow hall but the hours are slightly different. There's a fourth mealtime starting at midnight to accommodate the late training that takes place at Westbrook. Approximately 800 Soldiers go through Westbrook's chow hall everyday.

Quite a few things happened this past week. The shipping containers with much of the brigade's unit equipment and a lot of the Soldiers' gear were picked up. The containers made their way to Charleston, S.C., to be sea-lifted to Southwest Asia. We won't see this stuff again until we get to Iraq.

Soldiers have had opportunities at the MWR to watch their favorite teams play in the March Madness NCAA Tournament. One of the largest turnouts was March 20 for the Badger game against Florida State. Soldiers cheered the Badger victory then groaned when Xavier knocked Wisconsin out of the tournament.

Last week we mentioned that a Soldier from the 32nd was participating in the Fort Bliss Winter Combatives Tournament. The tournament took place March 26. Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Riemer, a platoon sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 32nd Brigade, fought in a no-holds barred cage match where he finished in third place in the Heavyweight Division. He grappled in five matches to get to his final match.



Nearly 60 Wisconsin employers visited Fort Bliss over the weekend. During their stay, the employers met up with their employees and saw firsthand the training the 32nd is going through. Employers saw Soldiers training in combatives, small arms marksmanship, and close-quarters combat in a realistic setting complete with Arabic graffiti and actors clad in Iraqi-style clothing. The trip also included five reporters, so watch for coverage in

your local newspaper or on television newscasts.

Approximately 100 Red Arrow Soldiers participated in the Annual Bataan Memorial Death March that took place March 29 at White Sands Missile Range. This march was particularly meaningful to the 32nd since members from the Janesville unit were involved in the Bataan Death March during World War II. This year's participants had the option of choosing between two routes-- a 26.2 mile course and a 15.2 mile course. Either route tested participants' endurance and physical condition. All of our Soldiers finished the march. Although many Soldiers were a bit sore, most were glad they went through the experience.

The top two finishers in each category of the 26.2 mile course received awards. One of our own Soldiers, Staff Sgt. Mark Mithun from Company B, 1-128th Infantry, finished second in his age group and placed 6th overall with a time of 4 hours and 32 minutes, and he was the top finisher among all the Red



Arrow troops who participated. We will be writing a more in-depth story on Mithun tomorrow.

Our four-day pass is getting closer by the day. In previous updates, we included information on nearby cities. This week we'll include another local area of interest: Albuquerque, N.M. (information from Wikipedia).

Albuquerque, N.M.

Albuquerque is the largest city in the state of New Mexico. It is situated in the central part of the state, straddling the Rio Grande. With a population of 518,271 it is the 34th-largest city in the U.S. The city was the 6th fastest growing in America. With a metropolitan population of 845,913 Albuquerque is the 59th-largest United States metropolitan area. The Albuquerque MSA population includes the city of Rio Rancho, one of the fastest growing cities in the United States.

Albuquerque has one of the highest elevations of any major city in the United States, though the effects of this are greatly tempered by its southwesterly continental position. The elevation of the city ranges from 4,900 feet above sea level near the Rio Grande (in the Valley) to over 6,700 feet in the foothill areas of Sandia Heights and Glenwood Hills.



Albuquerque is home to the University of New Mexico (UNM), Kirtland Air Force Base and the Sandia National Laboratories and Petroglyph National Monument. The Rio Grande flows through the city, north to south. The Sandia Mountains run along the eastern side of Albuquerque and offer interesting and varied rock climbing. Climbs from one to 10 pitches can be found at all ability levels.

The city is also home to the annual Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow, an international event featuring over 3,000 indigenous Native American dancers and singers representing more than 500 tribes from Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Dancers and singers participate socially and competitively at the event, held in April.

Albuquerque contains a variety of museums, shops and other points of interest. Some of these include the Albuquerque Biological Park and Old Town Albuquerque.

Old town contains numerous shops and restaurants as well as a ghost tour performed by the Southwest Ghosthunters Association.

The Sandia Peak Tramway, located adjacent to Albuquerque is the world's longest passenger aerial tramway. It also has the world's third longest single span. It stretches from the Northeast edge of the city to the crestline of the Sandia Mountains.

We'd like to thank the families back home for all of your support. We'll send more updates as we have new information.

— Spc. Michelle Gonzalez
32nd BCT Public Affairs

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Photo Captions

Page 1:

1st Lt. Rhett Zietlow, Company C, 128th Infantry Regiment, is served some chow from the dining facility at Camp McGregor. *Photo by 1st Lt. Joy LeMay*

Page 2 (top):

Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Riemer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 32nd Brigade, grapples with his fifth opponent at the 2009 Winter Combatives Tournament at Fort Bliss. Riemer went on to finish third in the no-holds barred cage match. *Photo by Spc. Michelle Gonzalez*

Page 2 (middle):

Nearly 60 Wisconsin employers visited Fort Bliss this weekend to meet up with 32nd Soldiers. Employers saw firsthand how Soldiers are training. This included a detailed explanation of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles that are designed to withstand IED attacks. *Photo by Brian Veara*

Page 2 (bottom):

Staff Sgt. Thomas Boenigk, Company A, 32nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, rehydrates after running two miles to the nearest medical tent to find help for a British soldier during the Bataan Memorial Death March. *Photo by Spc. Michelle Gonzalez*

Page 3:

In this photo from Wikipedia, Albuquerque's highrise buildings mark the center of the city's downtown business district.
